

Message Text

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ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 COME-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02

/051 W

-----190537Z 001457 /14

R 190230Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7050

UNCLAS TOKYO 5612

FOR OES/APT

DEPT PASS TO DOT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, TECH, JA

SUBJECT: JAPAN AIRLINES HIGH SPEED SURFACE TRANSPORTATION
EQUIPMENT DEMONSTRATION

REF: (A) 76 TOKYO A-89; (B) TOKYO 629

SUMMARY: JAPAN AIRLINES (JAL) INVITED EMBOFF TO
DEMONSTRATION OF NEW HIGH SPEED SURFACE TRANSPORTATION
(HSST) VEHICLE AT TEST TRACK NEAR HANEDA AIRPORT.
TEST CONSISTED OF A HIGH SPEED RUN ON THE 1,300 METER
TRACK AND A HOVERING DEMONSTRATION. THE VEHICLE REACHED
A TOP SPEED OF 138 KILOMETERS PER HOUR DURING THE
TEST. END SUMMARY.

1. EMBOFF ATTENDED DEMO OF JAL HSST SYSTEM ON APRIL
15 AT JAL TEST TRACK NEAR HANEDA AIRPORT. APPROXIMATELY
400 OBSERVERS WERE PRESENT DURING THE TEST. THE
DEMONSTRATION CONSISTED OF A HIGH SPEED RUN OF ABOUT
1,100 METERS. EMBOFF TIMED THE RUN FROM START TO FINISH
AT APPROXIMATELY 30 SECONDS. PRESS RELEASE ISSUED
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AFTER TEST ANNOUNCED VEHICLE HAD REACHED 138
KILOMETERS PER HOUR. SECOND PART OF THE TEST WAS A
HOVERING DEMONSTRATION IN WHICH THE CRAFT HOVERED
OVER THE TRACK AND WAS MOVED BACK AND FORTH WITH ONLY
SLIGHT EFFORT BY AN ATTENDANT. VEHICLE HOVERS
10-15 MM ABOVE THE TRACK.

2. JAL HSST UTILIZES AN ATTRACTIVE MAGNET SYSTEM FOR LEVITATION AND A LINEAR INDUCTION MOTOR FOR PROPULSION. THE DEMONSTRATION VEHICLE IS 4.2 METERS LONG, 1.1 METER HIGH AND 2.6 METERS WIDE. IT WEIGHTS 1,000 KILOGRAMS. THE TEST VEHICLE REPORTEDLY HAS BEEN CLOCKED AT 150 KPH, DURING PREVIOUS TRIAL RUNS AND FINAL MODELS ARE EXPECTED TO REACH 300 KPH.

3. JAL EXPECTS TO BEGIN CONSTRUCTION OF A PRE-PRODUCTION PROTOTYPE BY THE END OF 1977 AND BEGIN PRODUCING FULL SIZED VEHICLES BY 1978-79.

4. IN A SEPARATE ANNOUNCEMENT THE JAPAN NATIONAL RAILWAY CORP. FORMALLY UNVEILED ITS NEW TEST FACILITY FOR THE JNR HSST SYSTEM AT MIYAZAKI IN KYUSHU. THE JNR TEST TRACK IS PRESENTLY 1,500 METERS LONG AND WILL EVENTUALLY BE EXPANDED TO 7,000 METERS FOR FULL SPEED TESTING OF THE JNR PROTOTYPE. REFTTEL (B) REPORTED DETAILS OF THE JNR PROGRAM PREVIOUSLY.

5. EMBASSY IS POUCHING COPIES OF PRESS RELEASE AND TECHNICAL INFO DISTRIBUTED BY JAL DURING TEST.
SHOESMITH

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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